



# ARUBA TODAY

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Page 8

Aruba's English news leader and ultimate guide to paradise

## Xylazine-laced fentanyl is scrambling efforts to stop overdoses

**AP Health Writer**  
**WASHINGTON (AP)** — A powerful animal sedative in the illicit drug supply is complicating the U.S. response to the opioid crisis, scrambling longstanding methods for reversing overdoses and treating addiction. Xylazine can cause severe skin wounds, but whether it is leading to more deaths — as suggested by officials in Washington — is not yet clear, according to health and law enforcement professionals on the front lines of efforts in New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania. In fact, early data suggests the drug may inadvertently be diluting the effects of fentanyl, the synthetic opioid behind most overdose deaths. There is broad agreement, however, that much more information is needed to understand xylazine's impact, to craft ways of disrupting illegal supplies and to develop medicines to reverse its effects.



Nick Gallagher reacts as volunteer registered nurse Jennifer D'Angelo treats his skin wounds the Savage Sisters' community outreach storefront in the Kensington neighborhood of Philadelphia, Wednesday, May 24, 2023.

Continued on Page 2

Associated Press

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SAXOPHONIST  
6:30pm - 8:30pm

**WEDNESDAY**  
EDDIE KROON  
SINGER  
6:30pm - 8:30pm

**THURSDAY**  
MARRYBELL MADURO  
SINGER  
6:30pm - 8:30pm

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# Xylazine-laced fentanyl is scrambling efforts to stop overdoses

Continued from Front

"We don't know whether xylazine is increasing the risk of overdose or reducing the risk of overdose," said Dr. Lewis Nelson of Rutgers New Jersey Medical School, who advises federal regulators on drug safety. "All we know is that there are a lot of people taking xylazine and a lot of them are dying, but it doesn't mean that xylazine is doing it."

In almost all cases, xylazine — a drug for sedating horses and other animals — is added to fentanyl, the potent opioid that can be lethal even in small amounts. Some users say the combination, dubbed "tranq" or "tranq dope," gives a longer-lasting high, more like heroin, which has largely been replaced by fentanyl in U.S. drug markets.

Like other cutting agents, xylazine benefits dealers: It's often cheaper and easier to get than fentanyl. Chinese websites sell a kilogram for \$6 to \$20, no prescription required. Chemicals used to produce fentanyl can cost \$75 or more per kilogram.

"Nobody asked for xylazine in the drug supply," said Sarah Laurel, founder of Savage Sisters, a Philadelphia outreach group. "Before anybody knew it, the community was chemically dependent on it. So now, yes, people do seek it out." From a storefront in Philadelphia's Kensington neighborhood, Laurel's group provides first aid, showers, clothes and snacks to people using drugs.

Xylazine's effects are easy to spot: users experience a lethargic, trance-like state and sometimes black out, exposing themselves to robbery or assault.

"It's a delayed reaction, I could be walking down the street, it's 45 minutes later," says Dominic Rodriguez, who is homeless and battling addiction. "Then I wake up, trying to piece together what happened."

U.S. regulators approved xylazine in 1971 to sedate animals for surgery, dental



Sarah Laurel, founder of Savage Sisters, speaks during an interview at her community outreach storefront in the Kensington neighborhood of Philadelphia, Wednesday, May 24, 2023.

Associated Press

procedures and handling purposes.

In humans, the drug can cause breathing and heart rates to drop. It's also linked to severe skin ulcers and abscesses, which can lead to infections, rotting tissue and amputations. Experts disagree on the exact cause of the wounds, which are much deeper than those seen with other injectable drugs.

In Philadelphia, the drug's introduction has created a host of new challenges. Naloxone, a medication used to revive people who have stopped breathing, doesn't reverse the effects of xylazine. Philadelphia officials stress that naloxone should still be administered in all cases of suspected overdose, since xylazine is almost always found in combination with fentanyl. With no approved reversal drug for xylazine, the Savage Sisters group has taken to carrying oxygen tanks to help revive people.

Meanwhile, a roaming van staffed by local health workers and city staffers aims to treat the skin wounds before they require hospitalization.

The wounds can make it harder to get people into addiction treatment programs, which typically don't have the expertise to treat deep lesions that can expose tissue and bone.

"If you have someone out

there who's ready to come in for treatment, you really want to act on that quickly," said Jill Bowen, who runs Philadelphia's behavioral health department.

The city recently launched a pilot program where hospitals treat patients for wounds and then directly transfer them into addiction treatment.

Xylazine can be addictive and patients who stop taking it report severe withdrawal symptoms, including anxiety and distress. There's no approved treatment but physicians have been using the blood pressure-lowering drug clonidine, which is sometimes prescribed for anxiety.

In April, federal officials declared xylazine-laced fentanyl an "emerging threat," pointing to the problems in Philadelphia and other northeastern cities. Testing is far from uniform, but the drug has been detected in all 50 states and appears to be moving westward, similar to earlier waves of drug use.

Officials describe the drug's toll in stark terms and statistics: Fatal overdoses involving xylazine increased more than 1,200% percent between 2018 and 2021. But that largely reflects increased testing, since most medical examiners weren't looking for the drug until recently.

"What it is doing is making

the deadliest drug we've ever seen, fentanyl, even deadlier," Anne Milgram, head of the Drug Enforcement Administration, told attendees at a recent conference.

But those who have studied the problem closely aren't so sure.

One of the only studies looking at the issue reached a startling conclusion: People who overdosed on a combination of fentanyl and xylazine had "significantly less severe" outcomes than those taking fentanyl alone.

It was the opposite of what Dr. Jennifer Love and her colleagues expected, given xylazine's dangerous effects on breathing. But their analysis of more than 320 overdose patients who received emergency care found lower rates of cardiac arrest and coma when xylazine was involved.

Love, an emergency medicine physician at New York's Mount Sinai hospital, suggested xylazine may be reducing the amount of fentanyl in each dose. She stressed that this is only one possible explanation, and more research is needed into xylazine's long-term effects. She also noted that the study didn't track downstream effects of xylazine that could be deadly, including skin infections and amputations.

But hints that xylazine could be blunting fatal overdoses are showing up elsewhere. In New Jersey, about one-third of the opioid supply contains xylazine, based on testing of drug paraphernalia. But less than 8% of fatal overdoses involved xylazine in 2021, the latest year with complete data.

Police Capt. Jason Piotrowski, who oversees the analysis of state drug data, said xylazine's ability to extend users' high may be a factor in why it's showing up less than expected in fatal overdoses.

"If xylazine is lasting longer and that's why people are using it, then they're not going to need as many doses," he said. "So now their exposure to the more deadly fentanyl decreases."

Like other experts, Piotrowski stressed that this is only one theory and xylazine's impact is far from clear.

Philadelphia officials see no upside to the drug.

"I don't frankly see a plus side to xylazine," said Dr. Cheryl Bettigole, the city's health commissioner. "It seems to increase the risk of overdose and it causes these severe, debilitating wounds that interfere with peoples' ability to get into treatment."

Philadelphia's annual toll of fatal overdoses has climbed by 14% since xylazine became a significant part of the local drug market around 2018. In 2021, the city reported 1,276 overdose deaths. Bettigole expects final 2022 figures to show another increase.

More than 90% of lab-tested opioids in Philadelphia contain xylazine, according to city figures.

Even as Savage Sisters and other advocates deal with xylazine's toll, they are seeing newer drugs circulate, including nitazenes, a synthetic opioid that can be even more potent than fentanyl.

A shifting mix of opioids, stimulants and sedatives has come to define the U.S. drug epidemic, making it harder to manage a crisis that now claims more than 100,000 lives a year. □



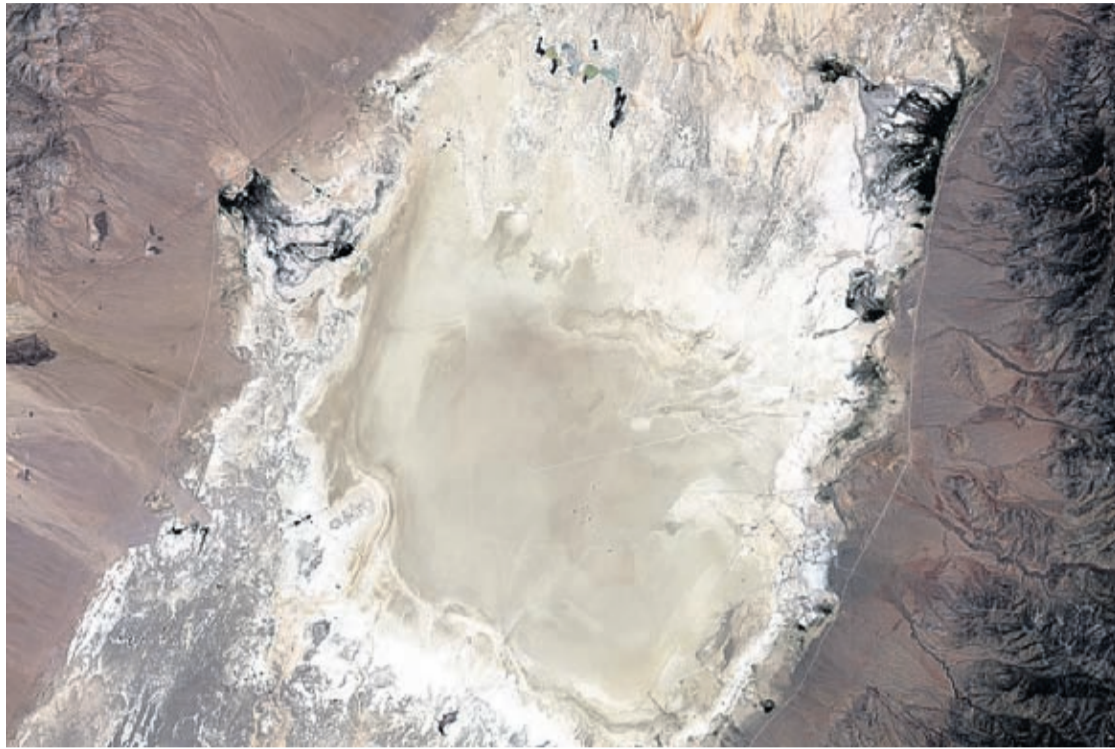
## NASA opposes lithium mining at tabletop flat Nevada desert site used to calibrate satellites

By SCOTT SONNER  
Associated Press

**RENO, Nev. (AP)** — Environmentalists, tribal leaders and others have fought for years against lithium mining ventures in Nevada. Yet opposition to mining one particular desert tract for the silvery white metal used in electric car batteries is coming from unusual quarters: space.

An ancient Nevada lakebed beckons as a vast source of the coveted element needed to produce cleaner electric energy and fight global warming. But NASA says the same site flat as a tabletop and undisturbed like none other in the Western Hemisphere is indispensable for calibrating the razor-sharp measurements of hundreds of satellites orbiting overhead. At the space agency's request, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management has agreed to withdraw 36 square miles (92 square kilometers) of the eastern Nevada terrain from its inventory of federal lands open to potential mineral exploration and mining.

NASA says the long, flat piece of land above the untapped lithium deposit in Nevada's Railroad Valley has been used for nearly three decades to get measurements just right to keep



In this undated photo provided by NASA, a satellite captures the Railroad Valley (RRV), a dry lakebed in Nevada, for conducting ground-based calibration of Earth-observing satellite instruments.

satellites and their applications functioning properly. "No other location in the United States is suitable for this purpose," the Bureau of Land Management concluded in April after receiving NASA's input on the tract 250 miles (400 kilometers) northeast of Las Vegas. The bureau has spent nearly three years fighting mining challenges of all sorts from conservationists, tribes, ranchers and others who want to overturn approval of a huge lithium

mine in the works in north-west Nevada near the Oregon line.

In December, the bureau initiated a review of plans for another lithium mine conservationists oppose near the California line where an endangered desert wildflower grows, about 230 miles (370 kilometers) southeast of Reno.

In Railroad Valley, satellite calculations are critical to gathering information beamed from space with widespread applications

from weather forecasting to national security, agricultural outlooks and natural disasters, according to NASA, which said the satellites "provide vital and often time-critical information touching every aspect of life on Earth."

That increasingly includes certifying measurements related to climate change. Thus the Nevada desert paradox, critics say. Although lithium is the main ingredient in batteries for electric vehicles key to re-

ducing greenhouse gases, in this case the metal is buried beneath land NASA says must remain undisturbed to certify the accuracy of satellites monitoring Earth's warming atmosphere.

"As our nation becomes ever more impacted by an evolving and changing environment, it is critical to have reliable and accurate data and imagery of our planet," said Mark Moneza of Planet Labs, a San Francisco-based satellite imaging company that has relied on NASA's site to calibrate more than 250 of its satellites since 2016.

A Nevada congressman introduced legislation earlier this month seeking to revoke the bureau's decision to withdraw the land from potential mining use. Republican Rep. Mark Amodei told a House subcommittee last week that the decision underscores the "hypocrisy" of President Joe Biden's administration. "It is supposedly a goal of the Biden Administration to boost the development of renewable energy technology and reduce carbon in our atmosphere," Amodei said. "Yet they support blocking a project to develop the lithium necessary for their clean energy objectives." □

Associated Press

## New York doctors get legal protection to prescribe abortion pills



New York Gov. Kathy Hochul presents her executive state budget in the Red Room at the state Capitol Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2023, in Albany, N.Y.

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — A law to protect doctors in New York who prescribe abortion pills to patients in states where the procedure is outlawed was signed Friday by Gov. Kathy Hochul, who said the measure would serve women living in states with bans. Coming a year after the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the nationwide right to abortion, the law bars New York officials from cooperating with certain legal actions initiated in states where abortion is banned, such as arrests or extraditions. New York joins sev-

eral other states with similar telehealth "shield laws."

"Extremist lawmakers in other states can stop their health care providers from supplying abortion pills. If that's your state, I feel sorry for your constituents. But they can't stop us. They can't stop our providers," Hochul, a Democrat, said at a bill signing ceremony. A year after the Dobbs ruling, 14 states have bans on abortion throughout pregnancy with some exceptions. Other states have adopted deep restrictions. In all, 25 million women of

childbearing age now live in states with abortion bans or tighter restrictions.

New York already adopted protections for medical professionals who provide abortion care for patients traveling from states with bans or restrictions. But Hochul and lawmakers expanded protections to telehealth services at a time when more than half of abortions in the U.S. are carried out with medication. ACT Access co-founder Dr. Linda Prine said they will mail pills as soon as the legislation is signed. □



# Supreme Court rejects a lawsuit from states demanding that Biden administration boost deportations

By **MARK SHERMAN**  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The Supreme Court on Friday rejected a Republican-led challenge to a Biden administration policy that prioritizes the deportation of immigrants who are deemed to pose the greatest risk to public safety or were picked up at the border.

The justices voted 8-1 to allow the long-blocked policy to take effect, recognizing there is not enough money or manpower to deport all 11 million or so people who are in the United States illegally. The case was one of two immigration cases decided Friday, the other upholding a section of federal law used to prosecute people who encourage illegal immigration.

In the deportation case, Louisiana and Texas had argued that federal immigration law requires authorities to detain and expel those in the U.S. illegally even if they pose little or no risk.

But the court held that the states lacked the legal standing, or right to sue, in the first place.

Justice Brett Kavanaugh wrote in his opinion for the



**An immigrant considered a threat to public safety and national security waits to be processed by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents at the ICE Metropolitan Detention Center in Los Angeles, after an early morning raid, June 6, 2022.**

court that the executive branch has no choice but to prioritize enforcement efforts.

"That is because the Executive Branch invariably lacks the resources to arrest and prosecute every violator of every law and must constantly react and adjust to the ever-shifting public-safety and public welfare needs of the Amer-

ican people," Kavanaugh wrote.

At the center of the case is a September 2021 directive from the Department of Homeland Security that paused deportations unless individuals had committed acts of terrorism, espionage or "egregious threats to public safety." The guidance, issued after Joe Biden became president,

updated a Trump-era policy to remove people who were in the country illegally, regardless of criminal history or community ties.

Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas applauded Friday's decision, saying it would allow immigration officers "to focus limited resources and enforcement actions on those who pose a threat to

our national security, public safety and border security."

The case displayed a frequently used litigation strategy by Republican attorneys general and other officials that has succeeded in slowing Biden administration initiatives by going to Republican-friendly courts. Texas and Louisiana claimed in their lawsuit that they would face added costs of having to detain people the federal government might allow to remain free inside the United States, despite their criminal records.

Last year, a federal judge in Texas ordered a nationwide halt to the guidance and a federal appellate panel in New Orleans declined to step in.

A federal appeals court in Cincinnati had earlier overturned a district judge's order that put the policy on hold in a lawsuit filed by Arizona, Ohio and Montana.

But 11 months ago, when the administration asked the Supreme Court to intervene, the justices voted 5-4 to keep the policy on hold. At the same time, the court agreed to hear the case, which was argued in December. □

Associated Press

## Invasive northern snakehead fish found in southeastern Missouri for second time



**A sign informs visitors of the differences between an invasive fish, the northern snakehead, top, and the native bowfin, by a lake Thursday, June 18, 2023, at Duck Creek Conservation Area in southeast Missouri.**

Associated Press

**PUXICO, Mo. (AP)** — An in-

vasive and fish that is voracious predator capable of surviving out of water for days was recently caught in southeastern Missouri, causing worry that the hard-to-contain species will spread and become a problem.

The northern snakehead was caught last month in a drainage pool at Duck Creek Conservation Area. The last time one showed up in Missouri was four years ago, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported.

Wildlife officials sounded the alarm, but many anglers say they're unaware of the fish, its potential impact and what to do if they catch one. The northern

snakehead is originally from east Asia, where they are a delicacy believed to have healing powers. They reproduce quickly, have sharp teeth, can wiggle across muddy land and grow to nearly 3 feet (nearly a meter) in length.

The federal government in 2002 banned the import and interstate transport of live northern snakeheads, but they are flourishing in some parts of the U.S.

"They are knocking on the door in Arkansas," said Dave Knuth, a Missouri fisheries management biologist based in Cape Girardeau. "They are a beast." The catch in May

was worrisome, Knuth said. "I didn't expect them to be this far up the state already," he said.

The first northern snakehead found in Missouri was caught in 2019 out of a ditch within the St. Francois River levee system in the Missouri Bootheel region.

On May 19, state workers using a net to catch bait for a youth jug-fishing clinic, pulled a 13-inch northern snakehead out of Duck Creek Conservation Area. Knuth said the fish was found in the same watershed as the first one, though about 70 river miles (113 river kilometers) north of the initial catch. □



## Rights groups denounce Spain and Morocco's lack of justice

By JENNIFER O'MAHONY

Associated Press

**MADRID (AP)** — Rights groups on Friday denounced a lack of justice and transparency over the deaths of at least 37 migrants last year during a mass attempt to cross the border from Morocco into the Spanish enclave city of Melilla.

Ahead of the tragedy's first anniversary on Saturday, Amnesty International said the Spanish and Moroccan authorities were "preventing attempts to find the truth" of what happened when up to 2,000 African migrants tried to climb a border wall and dozens were crushed, beaten and denied medical attention by security forces at the "Barrio Chino" border crossing. The independent Spanish Commission for Refugees, also known by its Spanish acronym CEAR, ordered authorities to clarify what happened that day for "truth, justice and reparations," and demanded the launch of an independent investigation after prosecutors shelved the only state probe into the



Migrants run on Spanish soil after crossing the fences separating the Spanish enclave of Melilla from Morocco in Melilla, Spain, on June 24, 2022.

deaths in December.

"This leaves the door wide open for such a tragedy to happen again, endangering the lives of thousands of people seeking refuge," said Estrella Galán, CEAR's general director.

Amnesty noted that the families of 76 people who remain missing after the tragedy were still waiting for answers, and that Spain

and Morocco both had failed to provide a full list of victims' names, or any footage of the tragedy.

"Bodies are still lying in a morgue and in graves and efforts to identify the dead and inform their relatives have been blocked," said Amnesty International Secretary General Agnès Callamard.

Spain's interior ministry has

repeatedly denied that any deaths occurred on Spanish soil, and maintained this stance in an emailed statement to the Associated Press on Friday. "No tragic event took place in Spain and the actions of the agents of the state security forces were irreproachable," the statement said.

"Amnesty International

and CEAR confuse the lack of support for their story with an alleged lack of investigation," it added, saying the Spanish Attorney General's Office had "corroborated" the ministry's findings.

Moroccan officials did not respond to requests for comment on the eve of the tragedy's anniversary, and it has received no coverage in the official Moroccan media.

Organizations like CEAR have long criticized the Spanish government for the physical and bureaucratic obstacles asylum seekers face while seeking safe harbor. Spain's acceptance rate for asylum-seekers' claims is well below the European average.

Amnesty further alleged that Spain has continued illegal forced expulsions at the Moroccan border since the deadly attempted border crossing, while the warming of relations between the two countries means Morocco forcibly prevents asylum-seekers from reaching the Spanish side to apply for international protection. □

Associated Press

## Dutch government to end gas extraction in northern province after 60 years

By MIKE CORDER

Associated Press

**THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)** —

Extraction from one of the world's largest natural gas fields will end in October, the Dutch government announced Friday, turning off a lucrative source of revenue that also sparked unrest by causing a string of earthquakes.

"The gas tap will be turned off on Oct. 1. That means an end to extraction after 60 years," Prime Minister Mark Rutte said.

However, he said it remains possible gas could still be pumped from the Groningen field after that date if there is a "perfect storm" of an extremely cold winter this year and a problem with storage of gas from

other sources amid ongoing concerns about gas deliveries caused by Russia's war in Ukraine.

Faced with mounting anger from residents whose homes were repeatedly rattled by the shallow tremors, the government had already wound down extraction from the field which held 2,800 billion cubic meters of gas. Only enough is now being pumped to keep gas installations in the region operational.

Thousands of households are still waiting for their homes to be strengthened after years of shaking that damaged buildings. Thousands more are awaiting compensation.

Groninger Bodem Beweging, an organization that

represents residents in the region, called the announcement "a step in the right direction," but added its members would not be celebrating yet and will continue to push for a definitive end this year with no possibility of more extraction. Gas was extracted in Groningen for decades by a consortium including energy giants Shell and ExxonMobil before the government decided in 2018 to gradually stop pumping the energy source that warms most Dutch homes. A damning parliamentary report issued in February into the government's handling of the extraction calculated that the Dutch state earned 363 billion euros from Groningen gas. The

report said the government put profits before people, prompting an apology from Prime Minister Mark Rutte. "The interests of the

people of Groningen have been structurally ignored in natural gas extraction in Groningen, with disastrous consequences," a parlia-



Support beams stabilize an historic farm after a series of small tremors caused by decades of gas extraction, in Hunzinge, in Groningen province, northern Netherlands on Jan. 19, 2018.

Associated Press



## U.N. puts Russian forces on blacklist for killing children in Ukraine

By **EDITH M. LEDERER**  
Associated Press

**UNITED NATIONS (AP)** — The United Nations put Russian forces on its annual blacklist of countries that violate children's rights in conflict for killing boys and girls and attacking schools and hospitals in Ukraine, according to a new report seen Thursday by The Associated Press. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in the report to the Security Council that he is "appalled" by the high number of "grave violations" against children in Ukraine in 2022, "shocked" at the number of attacks on schools and hospitals, "concerned" by the detention of children, and "troubled" that some Ukrainian children have been transferred to Russia. The U.N. chief did not put Israel on the blacklist for grave violations against 1,139 Palestinian children, including 54 killings last year as supporters had hoped. Instead, he welcomed Israel's engagement with the U.N. special envoy for



**United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres speaks to reporters in the Treaty Room before a meeting with Secretary of State Antony Blinken at the State Department, April 27, 2023, in Washington.**

children in armed conflict, Virginia Gamba and its "identification of practical measures including those proposed by the U.N." to protect children. Riyadh Mansour, the Palestinian U.N. ambassador, told reporters Guterres

"made a big mistake" in not listing the most extreme government in Israel's history. "It is very disappointing to the Palestinian people and to the Palestinian children," he said. In the wide-ranging report, the secretary-general

said that last year children were disproportionately affected by conflict. He said the U.N. verified grave violations against 13,469 children, including 2,985 who were killed, in 24 countries and one region. "Grave violations" include

the recruitment and use of youngsters by combatants, killings and injuries, sexual violence, abductions, and attacks on schools and hospitals. Guterres said the spread of conflicts to new areas contributed to a 140% increase in grave violations in Myanmar and a 135% increase in South Sudan. An upsurge in activity by armed groups, including al-Qaida and the Islamic State, also caused a severe deterioration of the situation in the central Sahel, particularly in Burkina Faso, leading to an 85% increase in grave violations. Violations also increased in Colombia, Israel, the Palestinian territories, Lebanon, Libya, Mali, Nigeria, Sudan and Syria, the secretary-general said. While armed groups were responsible for 50% of the grave violations, Guterres said government forces were mainly responsible for the killing and maiming of children, for the attacks on schools and hospitals, and for the denial of humanitarian access. □

Associated Press

## U.N. says Somalia faces a 'dire hunger emergency' but aid has been cut over lack of funding

By **EDITH M. LEDERER**  
Associated Press

**UNITED NATIONS (AP)** — Somalia's "dire hunger emergency" is spiraling upward with one-third of the population expected to face crisis or worse levels of food needs, but the U.N. has been forced to drastically cut food assistance because of a lack of funding, the head of the World Food Program said Thursday. Cindy McCain told the U.N. Security Council the latest food security data show that over 6.6 million Somalis desperately need assistance including 40,000 "fighting for survival in famine-like conditions." But she said WFP was forced to cut monthly food assistance, which had reached a record 4.7 million people in December, to just 3 million people at the end of

April "and without an immediate cash injection, we'll have to cut our distribution lists again in July to just 1.8 million per month." McCain, who visited Somalia last month, said she saw "how conflict and climate

change are conspiring to destroy the lives and livelihoods of millions of Somalis." She said the country's longest drought on record, which killed millions of livestock and decimated crops, recently gave way to

disastrous flash floods in the south. Urging donors to be as generous as they were and hauling Somalia "back from the abyss of famine in 2022," McCain warned that the survival of millions of Somalis is at stake. U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres visited Somalia in April "to ring the alarm" and appealed for "massive international support" for Somalia. But the results of a high-level donors' conference for three Horn of Africa countries Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya — on May 24 were very disappointing. It raised less than \$1 billion of the more than \$5 billion organizers were hoping for to help over 30 million people. Only in the past few years has Somalia begun to find its footing after three decades of chaos from war-

lords to the al-Qaida-linked al-Shabab extremist group and the emergence of Islamic State-linked extremist groups. Last May, Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, who served as Somalia's president between 2012 and 2017, was returned to the top office by legislators after a protracted contest. Somalia has faced numerous attacks from al-Shabab and recently the government embarked on what has been described as the most significant offensive against the extremist group in more than a decade. Catriona Laing, the new U.N. special representative for Somalia, told the council that the government's operations have degraded al-Shabab militarily and dislodged its fighters from a number of areas which is "a notable achievement." □



**A malnourished two year-old sits by his mother, left, who was recently displaced by drought, at a malnutrition stabilization center run by Action against Hunger, in Mogadishu, Somalia, June 5, 2022.**

Associated Press



# Aruba is not on alert for Tropical Storm Bret

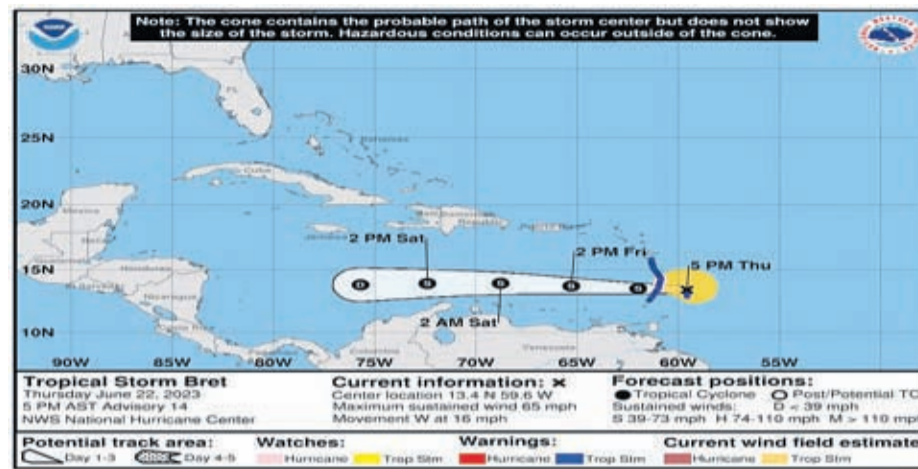
(NLTimes)—Wednesday afternoon, the Aruba Meteorological Department (DMA) and Aruba Disaster Management Bureau (BRA) held a press conference to inform the public about the latest updates regarding Tropical Storm Bret, which is expected to enter the Caribbean region soon.

Rodney Tromp, a meteorologist from DMA, explained that the Caribbean area is quite active for storms, and Tropical Storm Bret is the first system that can be seen approaching the Caribbean.

The latest update as of 2 p.m. yesterday regarding Tropical Storm Bret indicates that Aruba can expect it to pass on Saturday morning around 8 a.m., approximately 220 to 240 kilometers north of Aruba. Rough seas and moderate to heavy rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms are expected.

Tromp emphasized that it is still uncertain how much rain or wind the storm will bring because it is still quite far away. Once it gets closer to the radar area in Curacao, it can be monitored more accurately, and the public can be informed better through the DMA and BRA Facebook pages. In case it becomes a threat to Aruba, alerts will be issued through the same platform.

He mentioned that the northern part



of Aruba will likely experience rough seas, and the hotel areas along the coast might also see some increased wave activity, although not as severe as the northern side. There is already an advisory in place for mariners to exercise caution, especially on Saturday when the storm passes through the Caribbean.

Regarding boat owners, Tromp stated that there is currently no need to remove boats from the water. However, DMA will continue to monitor the storm, and if there is a change in the situation that requires an alert, it will be done in a timely manner so that boat owners can take necessary precautions.

Rino Hermans, the director of BRA, explained that when a system forms in the Atlantic, they start monitoring it. If there is no imminent risk for Aruba, they wait until the system gets

closer and enters the Caribbean, as is the case with Tropical Storm Bret. He emphasized that within the next 24 hours, Aruba may experience the effects of a tropical system entering the region with no significant risk to the island.

Hermans further explained that BRA and DMA work together to provide information from a single source to the public. "We have enough experience with storms that pass north of Aruba, and we found it appropriate to provide information today to prevent panic in the community caused by multiple sources of information that are not well interpreted," he said.

"As official government institutions, we need to be responsible when putting the public on alert, and so far, we have not found it necessary to do so. However, it is necessary to inform the community of the data

and knowledge we have locally," he added.

Saturday is the celebration of Dera Gay, and there are various events and activities taking place around Aruba. Hermans indicated that based on the current data and knowledge from BRA and the Meteorological Department, they do not see the need to cancel the activities.

Both the Meteorological Department and BRA will continue to monitor the situation. They recommend that the public follow both departments on their Facebook pages for information, and if necessary, they will issue alerts to the public until the system passes completely, ensuring proper communication.

After Bret, there is Tropical Depression Number 4, but it is not entering the Caribbean. It remains in the Atlantic and poses no threat to Aruba. □



## Department of Public Health: What to do during and after a hurricane has passed (edition 3)

(Oranjestad)—Those who follow the recommendations given by the Department of Public Health in collaboration with the Disaster Management Bureau regarding hurricane preparedness step by step can ensure they are better prepared than those who haven't prepared.



As a hurricane approaches closer, we will hear, see, listen, and feel its effects more and more. During the passage of a hurricane, it is important to:

- Stay inside the designated space for sheltering during the hurricane.
- Listen and follow official instructions from the Disaster Management Bureau or the government for news and updates.
- In case it becomes nec-

essary to evacuate your home for safety reasons, do so together with your family to a location as close as possible, such as a neighbor's house or a nearby family member's residence.

- Remember to bring the emergency kit with you wherever your family goes.

### Immediately after the hurricane:

- Stay informed by follow-

ing information provided by relevant authorities.

- Avoid unnecessary travel and driving on the roads, especially in areas with flooded roads or buildings.
- Provide first aid to those in need.
- Be cautious when inspecting your home and check for gas leaks, water meter damage, or broken power lines. Close or disconnect them if possible.
- First, ensure the safety

of yourself and your family, and then assist those nearby who require help. In case of EMERGENCY, call 911 or 100.

### The following days after the hurricane:

After the passage of a hurricane, the restoration process begins, not only in terms of material property but also emotional restoration. For many, experiencing a hurricane can be a traumatic or sad event, which is why it is important to listen to others and provide a shoulder to cry on and support when needed.

When it comes to property and home restoration, be careful when cleaning inside and outside of the house. Dispose of any food that may pose

a health hazard to yourself and your family, such as food that has been soaked in floodwater or has been defrosted. Also, remove any broken and dangerous materials from your surroundings, such as glass or debris.

The days following a hurricane can be difficult, filled with anxiety and uncertainty. The best advice is to seek shelter, comfort, and support from close family members.

For more information, like our Facebook page "Directie Volksgezondheid DVG Aruba," follow us on Instagram @directie\_volksgezondheid\_aruba, visit our website www.dvg.aw, call us at 5224200, or email us at servicio@dvg.aw. □



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Noord – Sometimes all we need is one place where we can do all our shopping at once. Well, Do it center and Super Do it Center Groceries has it all. This is the largest, local owned Do it Center in the Caribbean and best of all a 100% locally owned family business.

### How it all began

It was 1938 when Mr. Eric Ponson started his journey at General Store. Ponson did not hesitate and decided to buy General Store. Buying a store and thus going from employee to owner of a business with a debt of 11.000 guilders was not an easy task.

As the saying goes: "Behind every successful man, is a strong

woman". In the case of Ponson, this was no different. As General Store progressed and slowly became successful, Mrs. Irene Ponson, came in to assist her husband. Irene Ponson is a visionary, she knew exactly where and how to invest and within a short amount of time in 1970, General Store moved to a better location at the Steenweg. This allowed for a lot more merchandise, products and employees. Supply and demand was as such, that General Store became the number 1 electrical business. Business kept going so well that the location at the Steenweg became too small and was moved later to Dakota Shopping Paradise and later to Pedro Gallego Straat. With this move, an expansion was decided upon and an electronics

store in Savaneta was opened. General Store still being very successful was ready for more growth.

Ricky, Kenneth, Corine and Frans are the fruits of this marriage. Kenneth and Frans however, decided to further develop their father's legacy and continued with their mother's dream to expand the business. An expansion not in square feet only, but in merchandise as well. A great opportunity presented itself when the Ponson family was able to buy a piece of property across from the airport. In 2007 the Ponson family moved into their brand new and huge building

After a successful opening and expansion, Kenneth and Frans who inherited their mother's vision, decided that General Store was ready for yet another expansion. With the support of Mr. Tom Barfell and management of Do it Best in the States, the construction of Do it Center commenced.

Fast forward to today. A Do it Center in Aruba, with more than 50.000 top of the line items for interior as well exterior use, building materials, STO products and a top of the line grocery store. Perseverance, responsibility, vision and the courage to invest have made Ponson's General Store as successful as it is today.

### Super Do It Center Shaba & Groceries

Located in Shaba, Noord. This is the last sibling of the Do It Center family. Here you will be able to find anything you are looking for. The building is divided into several departments from home to hardware to groceries. Everything under one roof.

Groceries? Visit the fully stocked supermarket with fresh fruits and vegetables and high class meat selections. Highly known products and brands are here for you to grab. Every week Do It Center Groceries offers its weekly special on selected items. Weekly specials are very popular and a perfect chance for you to buy your favorite products at a reduced price.

### Need a home makeover?

Do not skip the furniture department "Leenbakker". Here, you will find a divine collection of European furniture, worldwide known for their modern and stylish features for your bedroom, bathroom, living room or kitchen. For your garden they have a wide selection of durable furniture specially made for our tropical climate. Take a walk around and find some treasures. Find the perfect accessory for your house, fitted for your personality and style. Modern, elegant, retro industrial, whatever your style is you will definitely find something for your personal taste.

Do it Center Shaba is open from Monday to Saturday from 8AM to 8PM and on Sunday's from 9AM to 6PM.

For more information go to [www.doit.aw](http://www.doit.aw) ☐





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## Aruba Tourism Authority honor loyal visitors at Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure to recognize Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. These visitors were respectively honored with a certificate acknowledging their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honor certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, and 35 years or more consecutively.

The three honoring levels are as follows:

- Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
- Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
- Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honorees were:

Distinguished Visitors of Aruba Mr. Mike & Mrs. Lynn Akins from Pennsylvania, United States.

Ms. Kimberley Richardson representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of the Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino bestowed the certificate to the honorees, presented them with gifts, and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination, and as their home away from home.

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for always having Aruba dear to their hearts.

Top reasons for returning to Aruba,



provided by the Akins' were: Aruba's welcoming people. Aruba's picturesque sunsets & crystal-clear blue waters. Aruba's sunny weather all year

round. The variety of restaurants to choose from. The numerous things to do!



**ORANJESTAD** — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

Complete the sentence:

## Aruba to me

Aruba to me is ..... Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: [news@arubatoday.com](mailto:news@arubatoday.com) and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank

you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a lovely message from **Mark and Kari Cramer from Thomaston, CT USA.**

They wrote to us saying; "Aruba to me is our home away from home. We found this gem of an island only 6 years ago and have visited 11 times in those 6 years. It is our first choice when deciding where to vacation and where our friends and family choose to be as well.

We were among some of the first to return right after reopening due to Co-

vid. We recently celebrated our 20th anniversary here, as well as a few milestone birthdays with family. We have many friends on the island now that we look forward to seeing each time we visit. Thank you to this island's hospitality and its

people for making this such a beautiful place to be! See you soon!!"

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers!

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## Episode 8 The culture of death of the Caquetios

**Through the ages of history, slowly but surely, at least out of our modern perspective, man provoked and forged his own particular way of existence within the norms of conduct towards his natural surroundings. He learned of his ecosystem and how to adapt and dominate important steps toward civilization.**

As he became sedentary the heavy burden of carrying, and caring for the elderly during long migratory trip has almost disappeared completely, which consequently offered better care and quality of life in general for a the entire community. Caring for their dead was also a very important part of life and that did not differ on our island.

When we observe how each group or tribe cared for their deceased, we find that our Aruban ancestors also performed their special ceremonies of devotion and respect. Caring for their past away relatives was an honor. From archaeological findings, a lot can be determined of their social and political organizations and by studying remains of their

graves, a differentiation in their status and hierarchy can clearly be established for each individual by their remains for example. Four or five different ways of burying were practiced by the inhabitants of the large villages. These differences represent, without a doubt, social differences in these Dabajuroid communities. The background of the recorded differences remains a mystery as yet, but the differences, by any doubt, are evidence of the status of people, families or groups within the community.

Dead people were buried in the soil within the village and some with special gifts in their grave. However, some were found without any gift. This means they were either buried without any gifts, or the gifts were perishable, and disappeared without leaving a trace for us. The gifts that we find in some dead were buried in large earthenware vessels or urns: direct-urn-burial. These vessels probably are the same as those discussed in our previous episodes, as large storage and liquid-containing vessels.

Secondary-urn-burials are also found in the Dabajuroid villages. Such burials are the result of a complicated process: in fact, the dead is buried twice. The dead body is buried first in the soil, after some months or even years, the bones are excavated. These bones or bone remains subsequently get their permanent resting place in a rather small vessel. If, after such a procedure, the bones are buried in a large vessel, the archaeologist may misinterpret it as a direct-urn-burial.

We have a fairly good idea of the whole process of secondary-urn-burial from the descriptions existing on such 'double' burials. They are practiced up to this day by the Guajiro Natives, living on the peninsula of same name in the Venezuelan and Columbian border. More comparisons can be drawn between the Guajiro and the pre-Columbian population of Aruba, such as their environment, food and religion, which had all to do with how natives, particularly of this area, related themselves to the world of the dead and beyond; how to prepare each and one of their deceased relatives for their spiritual journey through the underworld and out in the land of their dead ancestors and friends.

There is evidence that the Dabajuroid people, apart from these four burial types within the village, had a fifth type: in caves outside the village. Also, there is information on the dead themselves. The Dabajuroid Amerindians, in contrast to their pre-ceramic predecessors, had low and wide skulls. They were a new population element \_ and not totally sure to confirm\_ that no inter-tribal mixing had occurred with the descendants of the earlier fisher-hunter-gatherer societies.

Source: Island Insight by Etnia Nativa





# Aruba celebrates Dera Gay!

**(Oranjestad)—Every year on June 24th, the Aruban community come together and celebrates one of our most authentic traditions: Dera Gay\*. This is a national holiday for us, and families and friends usually spend the day visiting several places around the island to delight in traditional cuisine, music, games, ambience and the famous Dera Gay Dance.**

### Brief history of Dera Gay

Dera Gay is a celebration with various origins and histories. The cultural festival of San Juan (St. John the Baptist), known locally as Dera Gay, dates back to 1862 and is celebrated every year on June 24th.

The origin story of this religious and cultural festival has several versions. The religious origin is associated with the birth date of St. John the Baptist, while the cultural origin is tied to the harvest festival. Although it has a religious aspect, Dera Gay is predominantly recognized as a cultural festival featuring music, dance, and singing. The dominant colors are red and yellow. Yellow symbolizes the flowering kibrahacha tree, while red represents the candle that is lit on the eve to announce the festival of the following day.

According to tradition, the festival begins on June 23rd when people light cornstalks as a symbolic cleansing to prepare for the new harvest season. On June 24th, after sunset, the celebration of San Juan starts in different districts with Dera

Gay dance, candle dance, and flag dance. The candle dance is performed for protection against illness and bad luck. The most well-known dance is the Dera Gay, where a man, with his eyes covered and a stick in his hand, attempts to kill the "gay" (rooster). Previously, this dance took place in open fields with a live rooster.

Today, a dummy is used, and the dance takes place in clubs. Those who still perform the dance in the fields or on the ground use a calabash. There is also a flag dance,



where small flags are placed on the ground and a person with their eyes covered by a cloth searches for the flags. The ceremony is accompanied by folk music.

The prominent musical instruments are the fio, wiri, and tambu. The Dera Gay chant dates back to 1862. Of course, this celebration is not complete without traditional local food and drinks. The festival of San Juan and Dera Gay regained popularity in the 1970s among the local population, and schools also started paying attention to this popular festival. "San Juan is coming, San Juan is going."

### Some places to visit on this day

Savaneta Neighborhood Center (Centro di Bario Savaneta): Vanessa de Kort, project leader at the Savaneta Neighborhood Center, has informed that on June 24th, they will be celebrating Dera Gay\* at the neighborhood center to continue enriching the culture of Aruba. The evening will begin at 6:00 p.m. and culminate at 10:00 p.m. with musical performances by Frank Croes and his Tipico Pega Saya, Masiduri dance group, Nos Cultura group, and as a special guest, Ivy and her group. Additionally, there will be Dera Gay competitions in the categories of children, youth, and adults. At the same time, they will also have a competition for the best Dera Gay attire.

S.V. Sport Boys Club at Angochi: On June 24, 2023, S.V. Sport Boys will celebrate its traditional Dera Gay on the Day of St. John. This cultural festival has been organized for 62 years in its original form and also marks its 65th year of existence.



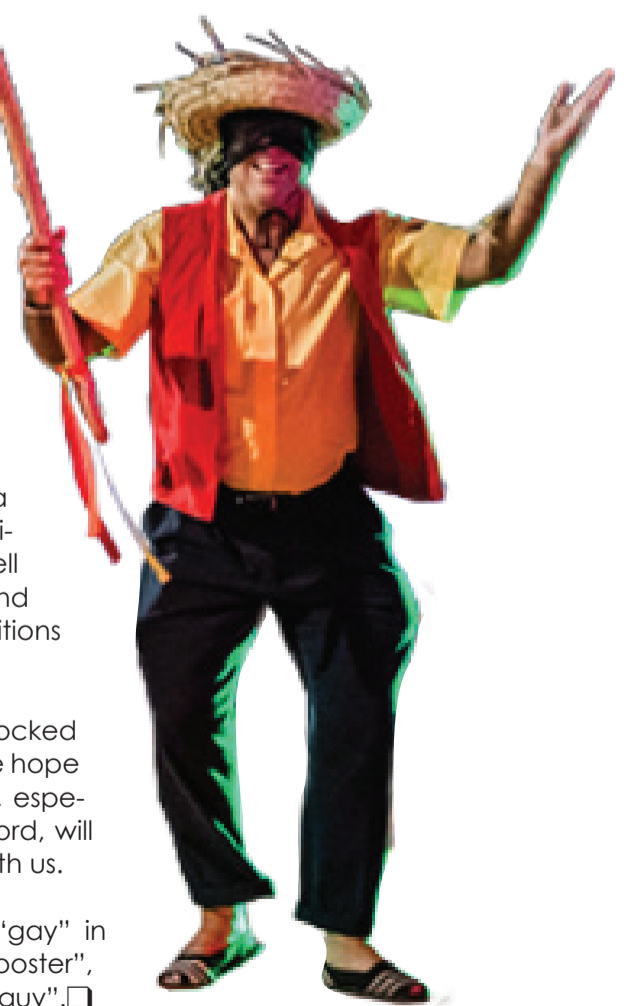
The celebration will begin at 5:00 in the afternoon. From 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., the Cah'i Orgel Mi Adorada by Chido Marin and a Dance Group under the direction of Madeline Kelly will be performing. From 7:00 to 9:30 p.m., musical group Grupo Stimami will animate the Flag Dance and Gay (Rooster) Burning Ceremony. The person who successfully burns the Gay becomes the hero of the night, and the one who retrieves the Flag of St. John receives their prize. At 9:30 p.m., there will be a Waltz Dance. At 10:00 p.m., the party continues with a dance party led by "Grupo di Betico" with a great repertoire of musical ties until the early morning.



Noord Neighborhood Center (Centro di Bario Noord): CBN will have a program that will start at 7:00 in the evening and will be filled with music, dance, and competitions. There will be performances by Banda Grupo un Brindis and various dance groups. Naturally, there will also be a St. John dance competition for couples, as well as the "Gay scream" and "chicken song" competitions for the little ones.

We will have a well-stocked bar and kitchen, and we hope that the general public, especially the people of Noord, will come and celebrate with us.

\*Dera Gay: The word "gay" in Papiamentu means "rooster", and is pronounced like "guy". □





**CROSSWORD**

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 39 Soft
  - 1 Some leather turns
  - 6 Low-budget
  - 41 Doled (out)
  - 11 Maui greeting
  - 12 Cut's counterpart
  - 13 Mystical deck
  - 14 Famed fur trader
  - 15 River of Iraq
  - 17 Bulldog backer
  - 18 Compass dir.
  - 19 Philosopher Bertrand
  - 22 Cardinal
  - 23 Figures of speech
  - 24 Helpers: Abbr.
  - 25 Shylock's outwitted
  - 27 Drenched
  - 30 High-speed warship
  - 31 Dr.'s grp.
  - 32 Derby, e.g.
  - 33 Wealth
  - 35 Radiant
  - 38 T, for one

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R	E	S	E	T			H	A	S	T	Y

**Yesterday's answer**

- DOWN**
- 1 Second of two
  - 2 Galahad's mother
  - 3 Not authentic, in a way
  - 4 God with a hammer
  - 5 Swift and others
  - 6 Tax-time VIP
  - 7 Holds
  - 8 Respect
  - 9 Island rings
  - 10 Danger
  - 16 More melo-dramatic
  - 20 Indian musicians
  - 21 Distress call
  - 24 "Entourage" role
  - 25 European capital
  - 26 Plug's place
  - 27 Surfer girl
  - 28 Appear
  - 29 Sampled
  - 30 Deep gorge
  - 34 Memory item
  - 36 Exalted verse
  - 37 Unite

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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35			36	37		38			
39						40			
41						42			

6-24

AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

6-24

**CRYPTOQUOTE**

DMWX U CUYMWJ GBWUTG LUG

MFG HMFVJWX MWUJ YMW

APOW FX MFG OPFHU USPOW

UAA WAGW — RXTXPDX

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: NO ONE ELSE HOLDS THE VISION FOR MY LIFE BUT ME. — AMERICA FERRERA

# Is Twitter ready for Europe's new Big Tech rules?

By **KELVIN CHAN**  
AP Business Writer

Twitter needs to do more work to fall in line with the European Union's tough new digital rulebook, a top EU official said after overseeing a "stress test" of the company's systems in Silicon Valley. European Commissioner Thierry Breton said late Thursday that he noted the "strong commitment of Twitter to comply" with the Digital Services Act, sweeping new standards that the world's biggest online platforms all must obey in just two months. However, "work needs to continue," he said in a statement after reviewing the results of the voluntary test at Twitter's San Francisco headquarters with owner Elon Musk and new CEO Linda Yaccarino. Breton, who oversees digital policy, is also meeting other tech bosses in California. He's the EU's point per-



Twitter, now X Corp, and Tesla CEO Elon Musk poses before his talks with French President Emmanuel Macron on Monday, May 15, 2023, at the Elysee Palace in Paris.

Associated Press

son working to get Big Tech ready for the new rules, which will force companies to crack down on hate speech, disinformation and other harmful and illegal material on their sites. The law takes effect Aug. 25 for the biggest platforms. The Digital Services Act, along with new regulations in the pipeline for data and artificial intelligence, has

made Brussels a trailblazer in the growing global movement to clamp down on tech giants. The mock exercise tested Twitter's readiness to cope with the DSA's requirements, including protecting children online and detecting and mitigating risks like disinformation, under both normal and extreme situations. □

# 7.5 million Baby Shark bath toys are recalled

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — About 7.5 million singing and swimming "Baby Shark" bath toys are being recalled after multiple lacerations and puncture wounds were reported in children playing with them. Zuru, an El Segundo, California-based toymaker, said it's recalling both full-size and mini versions of its robotic baby shark toys that have hard plastic top fins, which pose the injury risks. Twelve injuries have al-

ready been reported with Zuru's full-sized Robo Alive Junior Baby Shark Sing & Swim Bath Toys after children sat or fell on the now-recalled products. Nine of these cases required stitches or medical attention, according to a Thursday release from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. While injuries have only been reported with these full-sized toys so far, Zuru is also recalling Robo Alive Junior Mini Baby Shark



This image provided by Consumer Product Safety Commission shows Zuru's full-sized Robo Alive Junior Baby Shark Sing & Swim Bath Toys.

Associated Press

Swimming Bath Toys "out of an abundance of caution." Consumers in possession of the recalled toys are instructed to stop using them immediately and contact Zuru for a full refund. To get the refund, customers are asked to cut off or bend the tail fin, write "recalled" and a registration code on the body of the baby shark and upload a photo on a site dedicated to the recall. □

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# IRS reduces tax return backlog by 80% and is doing better job answering the phone



A sign is displayed outside the Internal Revenue Service building on May 4, 2021, in Washington.

Associated Press

By **FATIMA HUSSEIN**  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The IRS has processed tens of millions of tax returns faster this year compared with past years while getting through to customer service on the phone is slowly improving, according to a report to Congress released Wednesday. But there is a huge need to update the agency's information technology services and have more workers answering calls. Still, it's a vast improvement after years of backlogs and decades of underfunding. The latest update on the IRS from National Taxpayer Advocate Erin M. Collins said the agency cut its backlog of unprocessed

paper tax returns by 80%, from 13.3 million returns at the end of the 2022 filing season to 2.6 million at the end of the 2023 filing season. And now 35% of calls are answered, compared with 11% before. "Overall, the difference between the 2022 filing season and the 2023 filing season was like night and day," Collins said. "It marks a return to pre-pandemic levels." Through the climate, health care and tax legislation signed into law by President Joe Biden last year, the IRS received \$80 billion for tax collection efforts. Agency leaders started using that money immediately to add employees to the IRS workforce, which

had dwindled to 1970s levels through retirements, attrition and low pay that has not caught up with inflation. Most recently, the agency lost some of that money after the president and Congress agreed to claw back more than \$20 billion in exchange for suspension of the country's \$31.4 trillion debt ceiling. Biden administration officials have offered assurances that the spending cuts will have minimal impact on the agency's operations over the next few years. Collins' report said the IRS has tried to make do with the workers it has to achieve the Treasury Department's goals for customer service, and that has led to other problems. For instance, now it takes an average of 15 months for the number of identity theft victim assistance cas-

es to be closed. That is because the IRS in the pandemic years shifted workers assigned to the identity theft segment to accounts management to answer those phone lines. With fewer workers to answer identity theft calls, the IRS is "causing harm to taxpayers who were victims of identity theft." □

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# United States picked to host 2025 Club World Cup

By **GRAHAM DUNBAR**  
AP Sports Writer

**GENEVA (AP)** — The United States will host the Club World Cup in 2025, the first time the FIFA tournament will have 32 teams.

Real Madrid, Manchester City and Chelsea already earned places as recent Champions League winners for the expanded tournament lineup that is set to test stadiums and operations one year before the 2026 World Cup.

The United States will host the men's World Cup with Canada and Mexico, and FIFA could yet give some Club World Cup games to those countries.

The Club World Cup will take place in June-July 2025. The United States was chosen as host Friday during an online meeting of the FIFA Council.

FIFA praised "the United States' position as a proven leader in staging global events and because it would allow FIFA to maximize synergies with the delivery" of the 2026 tournament.

The Seattle Sounders also are in the lineup for the Club World Cup as the 2022 champion of North Ameri-



**Real Madrid players celebrate with the trophy after winning the FIFA Club World Cup final match against Al Hilal at Prince Moulay Abdellah stadium in Rabat, Morocco, Saturday, Feb. 11, 2023.**

Associated Press

can soccer region CONCACAF.

The Americans should get another entry as the host nation.

Storied European teams have visited the United States for preseason friendly games for years but the expanded club tournament will give fans a rare chance to see 12 of them play competitive games.

FIFA said in March the basic

qualification path for clubs was to win a continental championship in any of the four years from 2021 to 2024 in the five main confederations: Africa, Asia, Europe, North America and South America.

Europe with 12 teams and South America with six are the only continents with more than four entries. Extra places should be awarded according to team rank-

ings by results a four-year span in continental competitions.

The current seven-team Club World Cup for continental champions played every season creates little broad appeal and FIFA has long wanted to stage a full-sized tournament every four years.

This expanded version in 2025 is a huge commercial opportunity for FIFA to try

new broadcasting models and sign new sponsors, funding hundreds of millions of dollars in prize money for the clubs.

The influential European Club Association said in March it hoped for talks with FIFA on how to manage the commercial rights. The format for a Club World Cup lasting about three weeks has yet to be decided. One option is guaranteeing the 32 teams at least three games each playing in eight groups of four. The eight group winners could then advance to the quarterfinals. That would create a tournament of 56 games if a third-place game was included.

The current annual Club World Cup format will continue with a final edition scheduled for December in Saudi Arabia.

Reviving the Club World Cup was a priority for FIFA president Gianni Infantino on being elected in 2016, but his first project plan was blocked. A Saudi-linked \$25 billion deal with Japanese technology investor SoftBank provoked anger from European soccer officials who saw it as secretive and an overreach by FIFA. □

## Deion Sanders says he will undergo surgery for blood clots in both legs

By **PAT GRAHAM**  
AP Sports Writer

Deion Sanders is scheduled to undergo surgery Friday for a blood clot in each leg, the University of Colorado football coach revealed in a video he posted.

The news of Coach Prime's impending procedure began to spread Thursday after Pat McAfee discussed on his podcast with longtime NFL defensive back Adam Jones what was referred to as an emergency surgery for Sanders.

Later in the day, Sanders posted a video to clarify: "It's time for the horse to talk. You heard from everybody else but you hadn't heard it from me."

Sanders explained in the video on YouTube that his doctor found a blood clot in both legs, including one in his left thigh. He's struggled with the left foot since having two toes amputated in 2021 due to blood clot issues while at Jackson State.

He said that two of his three remaining toes on that foot are what he referred to as "hammer toes," a condition where there's an atypical bend in the middle joint.

The procedure he's having Friday is to "try to get those clots so I can have proper blood flow to the leg so they can fix the toes. That's what's going on."

Last week, Sanders revealed he might lose his left foot as a result of circulation issues. Sanders allowed camera crews with "Thee Pregame Show" to film a meeting with his medical team at the University of Colorado, where he's preparing for his first season as head football coach.

On Thursday, Sanders said: "There is no talk of amputation.

There's no talk of any of that whatsoever."

Sanders laughed as he told a story about someone reaching out that they had a remedy to have all his toes grow back. He later thanked everyone for their support and well-wishes.



**Colorado head coach Deion Sanders looks on in the first half of the team's spring practice NCAA college football game, April 22, 2023, in Boulder, Colo.**

Associated Press

"I ain't going nowhere because we're comin'," Sanders said. "I'm just trying to get all this straight. So when I walk that sideline, and I walk my walk, because I'm gonna talk my talk, that I'm going to walk my walk. ... I appreciate you. I truly do."

The interest in Colorado football has soared since Sanders was hired last December to turn around the Buffaloes following a 1-11 season in 2022. Colorado sold out of its season-ticket allotment, marking the first time that's happened since 1996. □



## Overtaken outs are prompting confusion, frustration over MLB's blocking-the-plate rule

By **STEPHEN HAWKINS**  
AP Baseball Writer

As former big league catchers, Bob Melvin and Bruce Bochy certainly had their share of plays at the plate, and the current managers played in an era when big collisions with runners trying to score were just part of the game.

The rules have changed over the years to protect catchers, but runners are now sometimes safe even after being tagged out, and without any collision. That happened this week to Melvin's San Diego Padres and Bochy's Texas Rangers.

San Francisco's Blake Sabol was originally called out in the fifth inning Wednesday night against the Padres. The call was changed after a lengthy replay review and Sabol was ruled safe when catcher Gary Sánchez was cited for blocking the plate. Melvin called it "one of the worst calls I've seen this year."

Bochy did Melvin one better, calling a similar play in the Rangers' 7-6 loss to the Chicago White Sox the previous night "absolutely one of the worst calls I've ever seen and it was done by replay."

Like Sánchez, Texas catch-



Chicago White Sox's Elvis Andrus, right, scores against Texas Rangers catcher Jonah Heim during the eighth inning of a baseball game in Chicago, Tuesday, June 20, 2023.

Associated Press

er Jonah Heim was standing when he made a sweeping tag. Elvis Andrus was initially called out, which would have ended the eighth inning with the game still tied, but the White Sox challenged the tag and that Heim was blocking the plate.

### WHY DOES MLB HAVE A RULE THAT PREVENTS CATCHERS FROM BLOCKING THE PLATE?

To prevent injuries that can result from collisions be-

tween base runners and catchers. In 2014, MLB put in a rule intended to eliminate avoidable collisions at home plate.

Rule 6.01(j) is officially listed as "Collisions at Home Plate," but is informally referred to by many as the "Buster Posey Rule."

That rule not only prohibits catchers from blocking the plate without possession of the ball or in the act of fielding the ball, but says runners can't deviate from

their direct pathway to the plate to initiate contact with the catcher or engage in an avoidable collision.

Posey suffered a fractured fibula and torn ligaments in his ankle after Scott Cousins of the Marlins put his shoulder down and slammed into the San Francisco catcher to score in 2011. That was a season after Posey was the NL Rookie of the Year while the Giants won the World Series.

Detroit Tigers catcher Alex

Avila was injured in Game 5 of 2013 American League Championship Series after a collision with Boston's David Ross. Avila did return to play Game 6 two days later.

Bone-jarring collisions at the plate used to be a common in the game. Among the most well-known ones was Pete Rose plowing through Ray Fosse to score the winning run in the bottom of the 12th inning of the 1970 All-Star Game, a play that left Fosse with a fractured shoulder.

### WHY HAS THERE BEEN A SUDDEN UPTICK IN VIOLATIONS?

MLB sent out a memo to teams late last season about how the rule was being enforced after several disputed plays at the plate. Minnesota manager Rocco Baldelli was irate after umpires ruled Sánchez, then with the Twins, blocked the plate on what appeared to be an out in the 10th inning of a game against Toronto last season.

The enforcement of the rule also was discussed in spring training before this season. In both cases this week, the runners were called out by umpires on the field before replay officials ruled otherwise. □

## New York Mets to play Philadelphia Phillies in London in 2024

By **KEN MAGUIRE**  
AP Sports Writer

**LONDON (AP)** — The New York Mets and Philadelphia Phillies will play a two-game series in London next season as MLB takes another rivalry abroad.

League commissioner Rob Manfred confirmed the June 8-9 games at London Stadium on Friday, ahead of this weekend's series between the St. Louis Cardinals and Chicago Cubs.

"We think our game is at its best when we have traditional rivals playing and we want to show the fans here in London the very best form of baseball," Manfred

said.

The first MLB series in the British capital and in Europe featured the New York Yankees and Boston Red Sox in 2019.

"We want to show our best when we come someplace special like London.

We do regard London to be special of strategic importance to us," Manfred said.

The Mets-Phillies series had been widely reported earlier, though league officials held off on an announcement until the eve of the Cardinals-Cubs series.

Manfred spoke at a news conference Friday before

Cardinals and Cubs players worked out on the artificial turf at the home of Premier

League soccer club West Ham.

The Yankees are lobbying



General view at the pitch during an unveiling of the London Stadium in London, on June 27, 2019.

Associated Press

to play in Paris in 2025. The league hasn't confirmed the French capital yet, but the players' association signed off on MLB holding a game in Paris in 2025 as part of last year's collective bargaining agreement.

"We are in the process of working on Paris in 2025," Manfred said in response to a question from a French journalist. "We're not at the point where we're going to make a commitment or make a formal announcement but it is in the planning stages and was part of the general program that was laid out in the basic agreement." □



# Weekly SPECIALS



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<p>WAS \$4.91</p> <p><b>\$3.99</b></p> <p>Each</p> <p>EE Hashbrown Patties 10oz</p>	<p>WAS \$5.25</p> <p><b>\$3.31</b></p> <p>Each</p> <p>Blueberries 1 Pint</p>	<p>WAS \$7.48</p> <p><b>\$5.71</b></p> <p>Per KG</p> <p>Halskarbonade</p>	<p>WAS \$4.85</p> <p><b>\$4.26</b></p> <p>Per Bog</p> <p>Apples Gala 3lbs</p>	<p>WAS \$9.31</p> <p><b>\$7.99</b></p> <p>Each</p> <p>Cholula Green Sauce 12oz</p>
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<p>WAS \$1.54</p> <p><b>\$1.25</b></p> <p>Each</p> <p>Minute Maid Orange/Cranberry juice 330ml</p>	<p>WAS \$1.31</p> <p><b>\$1.19</b></p> <p>Each</p> <p>Bonduelle Witte Bonen in Tomatensaus 200grm</p>	<p>WAS \$3.65</p> <p><b>\$3.08</b></p> <p>Each</p> <p>Avelina Old Fashioned Oat 28.1oz</p>	<p>WAS \$2.85</p> <p><b>\$2.51</b></p> <p>Each</p> <p>Cheetos Mac &amp; Cheese Jalapeño 5.7oz</p>	<p>WAS \$2.30</p> <p><b>\$1.71</b></p> <p>Each</p> <p>Doggy Pops Single</p>
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